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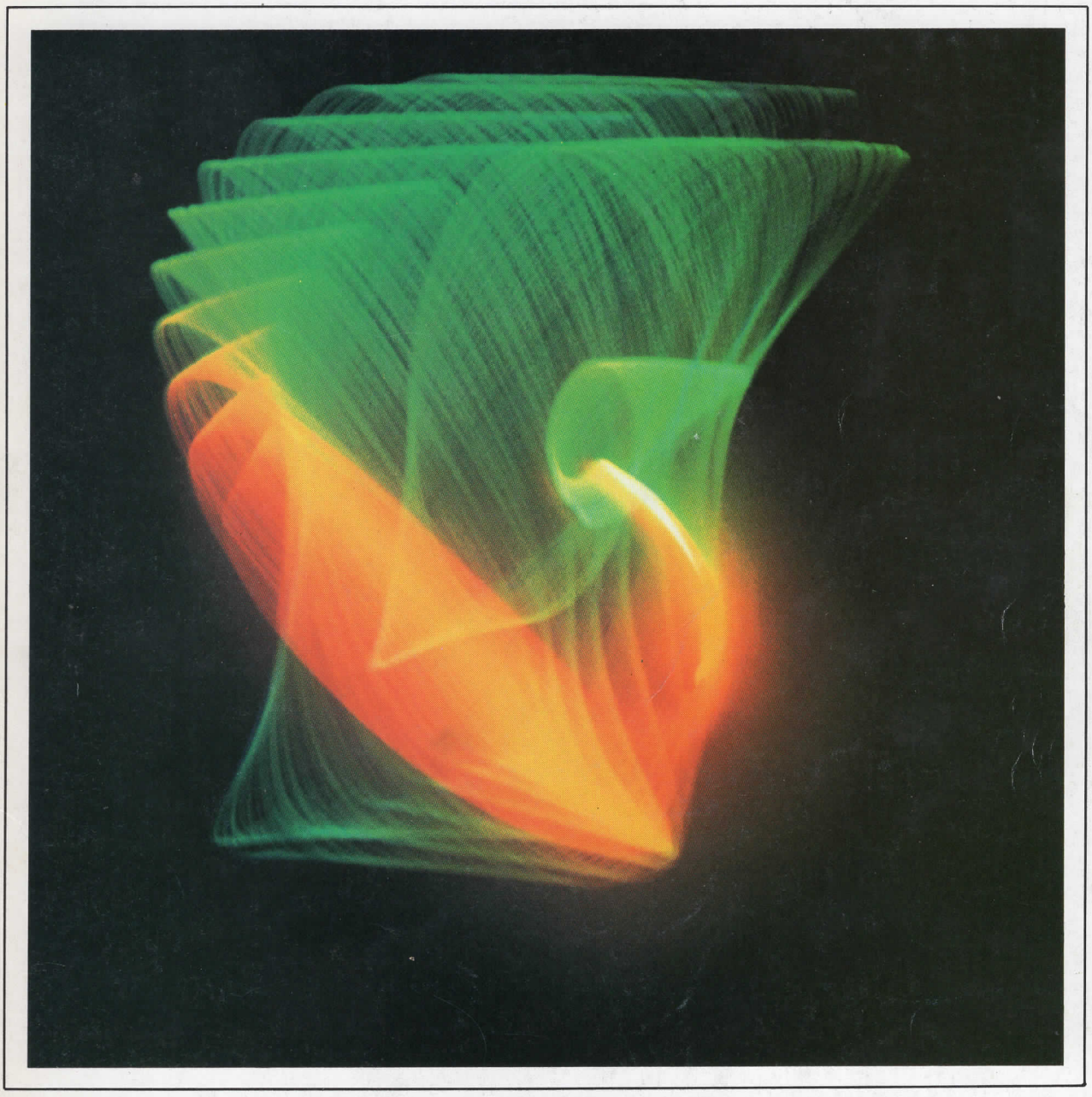

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LEGION OF THE BEWILDERED SILENT

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

The UFO report—an account involving a bewildering, oftentimes weird event. What a strange thing that is when you really come to think of it. Here is a report, commonly made by persons of high status; that is, technically, socially and politically—yet no one can explain its contents. No one!

We are not talking about the many IFOs (Identified Flying Objects). These are reports made by persons who are unable, through ignorance of their environment or through sheer wishful thinking, to recognize such things as aircraft, balloons, planets, satellites, etc., which are, in fact, often seen under unusual conditions. It is a true UFO report only if its contents remain unexplained after full study.

Can one believe such reports? One could just as well ask, what reason does one have ***not*** to believe them? They are strange tales and don't fit our present picture of reality, you say. Well, neither would have television or radio, had by some strange magic a working television set appeared in Plato's study. Galileo would have had some difficulty, too, explaining a modern pocket calculator

had he been handed one.

Magic. That's what the typical UFO report seems like to us. The UFO appears out of nowhere—and in a few minutes disappears into nowhere. It defies common sense. Yet, UFO reports continue to flow in from all parts of the world, from different cultures and societies.

When there doesn't seem to be any basis for rational belief, the door is opened to ridicule. How else can one keep his or her sanity, except to ridicule, to laugh at something which may offend our too, too solid sense of reality?

But remember there was a time when it offended our sense of reality to consider that the earth was not flat but round, and that it spun on its axis and traveled around the sun! And certainly we know of a period when the Theory of Relativity outraged the common sense of many scientists. Many scientists laughed at Einstein—at first.

People don't like to be laughed at. Ridicule is a fearsome weapon. So, why brave it, unless it's absolutely necessary. Why not ignore the UFO experience? And that's just the point! The great majority who have had a UFO experience don't want to run the risk of almost certain ridicule.

At the Center for UFO Studies we often hear the remark, "Of course I didn't report it. I didn't want people to think I was a nut." That is why some of our best, and strangest, reports come to us belatedly and by chance, oftentimes by accident, and almost never by deliberate reporting.

UFO investigators share a common experience. While pursuing one case, others almost automatically will surface. As long as a person feels he or she is reporting privately, and most important, to a sympathetic ear, UFO reports will "come out of the woodwork."

In my Air Force investigating days, it almost always happened that while looking into one case, others came to my attention. Cases never reported, even though they may have, by that time, been years old. People would just quietly approach me, privately, and tell me of their experiences, often hesitatingly as though they still weren't sure they were doing the right thing. No, they hadn't reported it to anyone. They didn't want to be thought "crazy."
Some of these people were pilots of many years experience, civic figures, teachers, medical people, technologists and scientists. Yes, even astronomers! All of them afraid of ridicule, but still waiting for a chance to tell their stories to someone who wouldn't laugh.

As time went on, I began to wonder just how large this reservoir, this hidden storehouse of unreported UFO information might be. So I began my own experiment. I would innocently seek out UFO stories, often in circumstances where my identity was unknown. I would then always ask, "Did you ever report your UFO experience in any official way—to the Air Force, the police or to the newspapers? Nine times out of ten (just about the exact proportion) the reply was negative, usually accompanied by the ubiquitous phrase, "Of course not, I didn't want them to think I was a kook," or its equivalent.

"... From these few inquiries I gathered there were among the general population a great many who had had a UFO experience, had been bewildered by it, but remained silent for fear of ridicule. Further, that for every UFO report made through formal channels, there were probably ten or more UFO events that had gone unreported. Perhaps the ratio was even more severe. What an untapped wealth of valuable information!"

It began to appear to me that the number of unreported UFO sightings could be rather large. I then began to incorporate into all my public lectures on UFOs the technique of asking, "How many of you feel that you have had a genuine UFO experience?" To make it even less embarrassing (and make no mistake, it *is* embarrassing to tell a stranger a UFO tale) I would add, "Or has a member of your family or a close associate had such an experience?"

The results were quite uniform. Inevitably, between ten and 20 percent of the audience raised its hands. However, this does not mean, of course, that ten to 20 percent of the general population has had a UFO experience. But the "bottom line" was the answer to the question, "How many of you reported your experience to the Air Force or the police?" Now very few hands were raised; perhaps one out of ten remained in the air.

Thus, from these few inquiries I gathered there were among the general population a great many who had had a UFO experience, had been bewildered by it, but remained silent for fear of ridicule. Further, that for every UFO report made through formal channels, there were probably ten or more UFO events that had gone unreported. Perhaps the ratio was even more severe. What an untapped wealth of valuable information!

If that is so, then it next might occur to one that it is quite likely that the stranger the experience, the more "oddball" the UFO encounter, the less chance that it would be reported. The "ridicule potential" is obviously greater in such cases, so the greater reluctance to report. The more bewildered the observer, the greater the tendency to remain silent. One then concludes that there is not only a vast army of persons who have not reported their UFO experiences, "The Legion of Bewildered Silent," but the more bewildered, the more silent!

How can we tap this fantastic reservoir of hidden information? If we can't open the floodgates of this reservoir, we lose a wealth of scientific data. People might take highly important information with them to their graves and knowledge that might be of great potential value to mankind would be forever lost. Of course, it does seem only natural that the more unusual the UFO event, the greater would be the tendency to keep it to oneself.

UFOlogists often use a "Strangeness Index" as a measure of the deviance of the contents of the UFO report from "common sense." Thus, a strange light in the night sky, while very mysterious in itself, doesn't seem as strange to us as does a report of a metallic craft landing in a lonely field and disgorging a number of odd-looking creatures. Or, a UFO that stops a car by unknown means, and which later returns to normal operation when the UFO craft departs is stranger, has a higher "Strangeness Index," than does a report of a metallic disc seen high in the sky.

Somehow it does not impugn one's sanity if he mentions the sighting of a strange metallic looking object traveling across the sky. It is quite another thing,

however, for a person noted in his community for his common sense and stability to report that a mysterious wingless craft landed in his backyard at 2:00 a.m. and strange beings emerged. His reputation for credibility, instead of aiding him in establishing the validity of his story, suffers a severe downgrading. And, of course, he knows this.

So the more sophisticated and aware of the ways of the world a UFO witness is, the greater his reluctance to lay himself open to taunts and ridicule, as well as to grave doubts about his sanity.

It is the far less sophisticated person, on the other hand, who is more liable to tell his tale to friends and neighbors, and then before he knows it, he is apt to find himself on TV and in the newspaper. The higher the "Strangeness Index" of a reported UFO sighting, the less sophisticated the reporter is apt to be. This often leads to the misconception that the really weird and most baffling sightings are made only by the simple, the uneducated and the gullible.

Let us look at this important aspect in another way: If UFO events of all kinds were uniformly experienced by people of all kinds, the reluctance of the more sophisticated observer to report the stranger reports (Close Encounters of the Third Kind, for instance), would naturally lead to a biased distribution of witnesses toward a preponderance of unsophisticated, simple witnesses in cases of high strangeness. This once led a British observer to remark: "Why is it that when extraterrestrial beings come here they always pick a kook?"

In evaluating the extent of the "Legion of the Bewildered Silent" and its cause, we not only have the fear of ridicule to consider but also the degree of bewilderment. The fear of ridicule cuts the flow of ***all*** UFO reports (not the UFO events themselves), but especially impedes the flow of the strange Close Encounter cases. Perhaps for every report of a case for the high Strangeness Index, there may be two or three dozen like cases that never surface.

All serious UFO investigators will attest to the wide prevalence of unreported cases. They all have had the experience of UFO stories literally "popping out" when the surface is scratched. Try it for yourself. At your next social gathering bring up the subject of UFOs, perhaps by saying that you read an interesting UFO story in the paper the other day, or that you have a friend who had an interesting UFO experience. (You can improvise one for the occasion!) Using that as bait, you will be surprised how often UFO stories will be your reward. Sometimes as the confidence of individuals builds, more and more UFO accounts will surface. It won't always work, but the probabilities are high that you will be the recipient of some very interesting stories. Then be sure to ask whether these were reported in any official manner. Almost every time the answer will be "no." Remember, of course, that in probing for such stories you must always avoid the slightest hint of disbelief or ridicule.

Often it happens that if your own interest in UFOs becomes known, you will be the recipient of UFO accounts even without asking! I have found that members of the "Legion of the Bewildered Silent" ***want*** to find a sympathetic ear. We get requests from persons wishing to know if there are any others in their town or area who have had UFO experiences and to whom they could talk about their own encounters. The "Legion" is a fraternity whose members are not known to each other—but they should be. If you yourself are a "member" or if someone has confided in you about a UFO case which has never been reported, be sure to note the announcement at the end of this article.

"The reticence to talk about UFO experiences is especially pronounced among people in sensitive positions of public trust or of high technical responsibility. Take airplane pilots, for instance. In general, they just won't talk. They might end up by having to fill out endless forms, or they might even be asked to consult the company 'head shrinker.'"

The need to be able to talk about a UFO encounter is a very real one. The witness to a UFO event often desperately wants to know whether others have had the same sort of experience, or whether there is something peculiar just about him or her. There is a real sigh of relief when I tell the person that others have had similar experiences. "So I'm not crazy or just 'seeing things' after all," is so often the reaction.

The reticence to talk about UFO experiences is especially pronounced among people in sensitive positions of public trust or of high technical responsibility. Take airplane pilots, for instance. In general, they just won't talk. They might end up by having to fill out endless forms, or they might even be asked to consult the company "head shrinker."

An Alitalia captain of some 25 years experience told me this tale as we flew over the Atlantic on the way home from Rome recently. He stated that he had not reported the incident to his company (for the usual reasons), but welcomed the opportunity to tell it to "someone knowledgeable about such things." He had sought me out among the passengers, having seen me on Italian television the night before.

His story falls into the "Daylight Disc" category. He was, at the time of the incident, piloting a Viscount plane outbound from Rome, at an altitude of 12,000 feet. It was a beautiful clear day. Near the island of Elba, he and his crew observed a metallic-looking "tear-drop" shaped object pacing the plane. "It was so close," he told me, "that if it had had letters painted on it we could have read them." After some three or four minutes of this, the object suddenly took off, ***vertically,*** and was soon lost high in the blue sky.

At this time, the captain related, he thought it best to report the incident to the tower. But he wasn't going to report a UFO! Instead, he reported a "strange balloon!" The tower replied, voicing considerable surprise, that just an instant before they had had a message from a BOAC flight, flying above the Viscount at 40,000 feet, reporting a strange object that had swished by them, flying vertically upward!

The captain had kept that story to himself for years, an unwitting member of the invisible fraternity of the Bewildered Silent. Not until he found a responsible sympathetic ear was he going to run the "ridicule gauntlet." I promised him anonymity—this, we have learned, is always a necessity.

Surely his story is incredible, according to everyday standards. But then in the UFO field, we are not dealing with

everyday matters. It was General Samford who years ago characterized UFO reports as "incredible tales told by credible persons." And here was just one of many, many such incredible credible examples.

Once not long ago, I had just finished a talk about UFOs in Hawaii, when a young lady came up to the podium, waited until most everyone else had gone and told me of a UFO experience she and her husband had had. She, too, had been most reluctant to relate her story to anyone but felt now, at last, was the time to report it.

She was an airline stewardess, had flown for ten years, and was now on the Mainland-Hawaii run. She emphasized that she was well acquainted with aircraft of all types and that what she was about to describe "was no aircraft!" (How often that phrase, "It was no aircraft," has appeared in UFO reports. They were the last recorded words of the Australian pilot Valentich, who disappeared with his plane without leaving a trace.)

She and her husband were walking late one night on one of the less frequented beaches of Hawaii, when there appeared seemingly from nowhere and noiselessly, a dark wingless craft that circled over them, "frighteningly low," and then finally disappeared behind a small mountain. It passed almost directly overhead, at which time they could discern some faint lights. But for the most part the object was just a dark mass above them. As it moved, it progressively blocked out portions of the starlit sky. There seemed to be no doubt in their minds of its solid structure.

I seized this opportunity to investigate further. The following evening, at approximately the same time of night as the couple's sighting months before, I accompanied them to the exact site of the event. (It is important, whenever possible, to conduct a UFO investigation at the actual locale of the sighting, and as close to the same time of day or night as possible, under as close to the initial conditions as one possibly can.)

I asked the stewardess and her husband, separately, to "re-enact the crime," to pretend that the event was about to happen again. At the word "go" I started timing them with a stopwatch as each described the event as though it was happening at that moment "in real time." There was an eerie aspect to the whole performance, as each in turn, standing on that lonely beach, acted out their experience.

The actual case, so similar to others, is not as important in our context, as is the fact that they were ***not*** going to report it under ***any*** circumstances, but were persuaded to do so when assured of a sympathetic ear and the promise of no publicity.

It is one of the aims of the Center for UFO Studies to help open the floodgates of this seemingly vast reservoir of dammed-up UFO sightings. If, indeed, as certainly seems to be the case, we are seeing only the tip of the proverbial iceberg, then bringing to light the hidden portion holds a fantastic potential. If this could be accomplished in a reasonable time, the very flood of reports would command serious worldwide attention. Further, as we have seen, since the unreported cases include a proportionately higher number of "high strangeness" occurrences (since these are the ones persons would be the most reluctant to talk about), they also represent data of great potential from a scientific and sociological point of view.

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How to bring about the release of these hidden reports? How to get the "Bewildered Silent" to talk? Obviously, the "ridicule barrier" ***must*** be overcome. Too, the members of the "Legion of the Bewildered Silent" must become known to each other. If each were to know that he belongs to a formidable fraternity, that they are not alone and that their experiences can be shared and recorded for the benefit of science, without the glare of publicity, then this would certainly be a first step in breaking the awful wall of silence and bewilderment.

PROBE magazine has offered to cooperate with the Center for UFO Studies in providing a forum for those who have had a bewildering UFO experience, yet who, heretofore, have been silent. ***Anyone*** submitting their account to PROBE will be assured of anonymity; any use of such accounts for scientific purposes will omit names and specific locality designations. Only the reported facts will be used to piece together the patterns of events that will complete the jig-saw puzzle of this phenomenal phenomenon.

We urge you to cooperate. Contact the Center for UFO Studies, or PROBE magazine, if you, or persons known to you, have had such UFO experiences. No matter how weird they may seem to be at first glance, I am convinced, we are dealing with a phenomenon which may well change our very way of looking at the world around us and our life in it.

This is no laughing matter.

The Center for UFO Studies maintains a file of those persons who would like to discuss their experience with other UFO witnesses who, like themselves, have not discussed their experiences for fear of ridicule. The file serves a scientific purpose as well. It is of the highest importance to bring UFO cases, especially those of the "Close Encounter" variety, to the attention of serious investigators who will pursue inquiries on a confidential, "no publicity" basis. Should you wish to report a UFO encounter, please contact the Center by writing P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, Illinois, 60204.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek is well-known worldwide for his research and work in the field of UFOlogy. He is the Director and Founder of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, and has lectured across the country and abroad, appeared on numerous local and national radio and television programs and has written countless articles on the subject of UFOlogy. He was creative consultant for the successful motion picture Close Encounters of the Third Kind. *Information and data supplied from the Center for UFO Studies comprises the UFO Update section of PROBE.*

UFO UPDATE

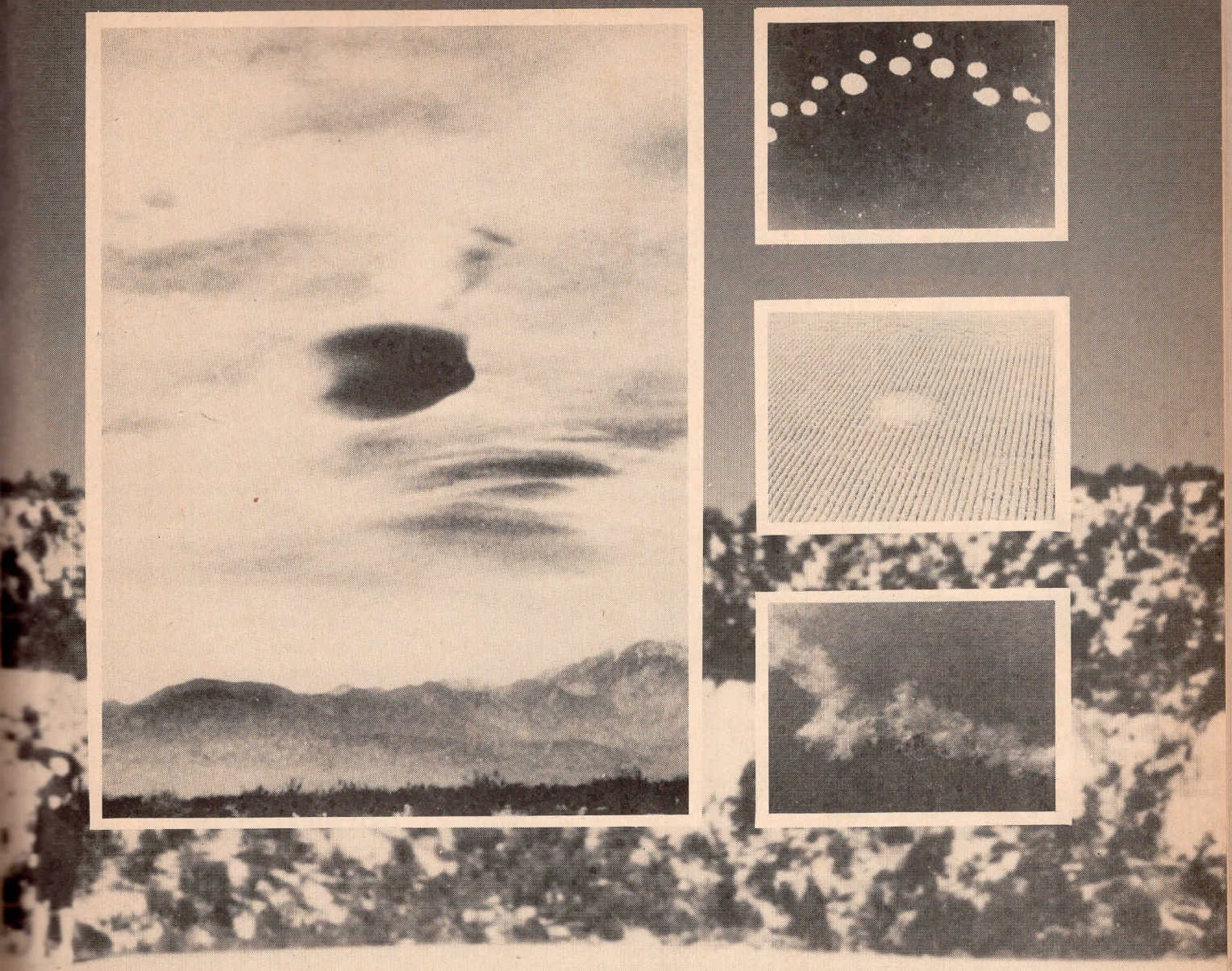
The following international UFO report is a regular feature of PROBE magazine, written and researched by Allan Hendry under the direction of Dr. J. Allen Hynek of the Center for UFO Studies. Readers interested in the activities of the Center are invited to write to P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, Illinois 60204.

Photos printed from the book *The Edge of Reality—A Progress Report on Unidentified Objects* by J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee.

U.S. SIGHTINGS

Strange Reactions to Huge Glow
Type: CE1
Date: Early March of 1980
Time: 9:45 p.m.
Duration: 2-3 minutes
Witnesses: 1+
Place: Bulverde, Texas

Fred Wirth, Jr., 40, stepped outside to see a huge, intensely bright orange glow 45 degrees up in the clear northern sky. It gave the appearance of being only 100 feet above his property. The angular size of the glow was huge, much larger than a full moon at arm's length, but it had no discrete shape to it. After hovering silently for five seconds, it shot off "like a rocket" further north and stopped, now appearing as a red, blinking dot. Wirth's wife Pat, 28, stepped out of the restaurant they operate and asked him why it seemed to be all "lit up orange outside." ("Did you turn on the lights out there?") She, too, could see the light in the distance. Then something odd happened. Mrs. Wirth suddenly became nauseous and vomited in the sink; Mr. Wirth started perspiring



profusely under his armpits and felt a lot of "energy."

Wirth drove off in the direction of the distant light with his father, but could not overtake it. At midnight, yet another similar light was noted in the distant west, flashing different colors. Wirth would later be told by residents in the area that they had witnessed the first orange sighting from a distance.

Pilot: "No Human Could Have Survived Turns Like That!"
Type: NL
Date: March 7, 1980
Time: 12:10 a.m.
Duration: 5-10 seconds
Witness: 1
Place: Memphis, Tennessee

According to Larry Crawford, if he hadn't been looking up at Jupiter in the night sky, he would never have noticed the unusual nocturnal light. Crawford, a 48-year-old salesman and former Navy pilot with 10,000 hours of flying experience, said the light looked like a star as it rushed from 45 degrees up in the northwest to the southeast in seconds. He estimated that the light was moving at 700-800 MPH, if it was up at 30,000

Photos from left: This "lenticular cloud" was taken at 4:30 p.m. on January 6, 1961, at Desert Hot Springs, California. The UFO "Nocturnal Lights" were photographed over Lubbock, Texas, on August 31, 1951, by an 18-year-old photographer. In this Close Encounter of the Second Kind by one van Horne in 1969, a 49-foot diameter "physical trace" was discovered in a soybean field following the UFO sighting the night before. Three photos, in sequence, were taken by a postman in Belgium on June 5, 1955.

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introduction of two plays in the U.S. and abroad based on the UFO phenomenon. In April of 1979, theatergoers in the San Francisco area could attend *After Stardrive,* a musical play written by Kathleen Cramer and O-lan Shepard at Fort Mason's Marina Theater. The play is a fictional account of the psychic aftereffect of a one-night sexual encounter between Annie, a frustrated doctor-wife, and an extraterrestrial lover. This transcendental experience results in the raising of Annie's level of consciousness; she becomes mentally sensitive to the world around her, displaying feats of telepathy and precognition. Real-life abduction claims occasionally include such imparting of psychic "gifts," but seldom, if ever, has this been a feature of UFO drama in the theater.

Meanwhile, in London, the ICA Theatre has produced a play by Colin Bennett called *All Along the Watchtowers,* which John Rimmer in the August, 1978, *MUFOB Journal* has called "a terrifyingly accurate image of the mental and emotional strains that can result from too literal an interpretation of the phenomenon, and the failure to recognize its predominantly reflective and symbolic nature."

The characters include a journalist working on an article about the "answer" to the UFO phenomenon, a policeman working on an assassination rumor and a cultist who links the two. These individuals find themselves manipulated by the UFO phenomenon as they become engrossed in its details (including a "Men-in-Black" episode) and dependent upon its "revelations," only to be left hanging in the end with as many questions unanswered as in the beginning.

Obviously, both scripts represent an unusually high level of sophistication. Perhaps the "legitimate" theater will transcend the relatively simple "nuts-and-bolts-from-space" portrayal of the UFO subject that has been the legacy of the cinematic arts, from *The Day the Earth Stood Still* through *Close Encounters of the Third Kind.*

Standard Definitions for UFOlogy

Last August 26-27, the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) sponsored the First London International UFO Congress. Around 400 people attended with 21 countries represented. Apart from the public presentation (which included 14 papers), an international working party was formed for the purpose of developing standard definitions and classification systems for UFO reports, in the hope that they will be universally adopted. The United States was represented by Drs. J. Allen Hynek and Leo Sprinkle. Indeed, the working party agreed to adopt a variation of Dr. Hynek's definition of "UFO report," which was worded as follows:

> *A statement by a person or persons judged responsible and psychologically normal by commonly accepted standards, describing a personal, visual or instrumentally aided perception of a phenomenon and/or its assumed physical effects that does not specify any known physical event, object or process or any psychological event or process.*

"UFO" was thus defined to be "the stimulus giving rise to the UFO report." Further, it was agreed that no available classification system was suitable for research. This work, and efforts toward a universal computer coding system for UFO reports, will be continued in the future.

UFO PERSPECTIVE

The Abductions: 1979 in Review—Part 1

What could be more frustrating in the study of UFO reports than abduction claims? According to David Webb, a researcher who is cataloguing Close Encounters of the Third Kind reports, there are about 200 known abduction claims.

At face value, this most exotic subset of the UFO phenomenon is the strongest support for the extraterrestrial hypothesis for UFO experiences. Yet as blueprints for the behavior of alien visitors, these accounts generally outrage common sense, and seem more like vivid personal fantasies. They occur on a global basis, yet their implications seem restricted to the individuals involved. The abductees' experiences are fairly universal: Forcible capture, mesmerization, medical examination, and loss of conscious memory requiring the use of hypnotic regression; yet the descriptions of the UFOnaut abductors (usually variations of our own Homo sapiens form) and their UFO craft, vary in

detail from case to case. Even to the particular planet the UFOnauts sometimes claim is their home.

If abductions are *complicated fantasies, why do they always result in amnesia following the initial UFO sighting—all over the world? Why is hypnotic regression so effective, some would say* too *effective, in securing the lost details? Many of the cases are accompanied by physical traces on the ground, and visible physiological effects; on the other hand, why are photographs and radar confirmation, present in other types of UFO sightings, so absent from nearly 2,000 CE3 claims?*

Ponder these questions as you review four unusual abduction claims from the United States in 1979. The first two happened in Texas and South Carolina. Next issue, we will present two more from Virginia and Florida.

Bill Herrmann—South Carolina

What do you conclude when a 27-year-old auto repair service writer from Charleston, South Carolina, claims to have experienced five UFO sightings (complete with color photographs), two abductions and the materialization of a strange metal bar in his home? For Bill Herrmann, it all began on November 12, 1977, about 7:00 p.m., when he stepped outside of his trailer and watched a bright silver disc of light chase after a Cessna airplane. The Cessna turned away toward the Charleston Municipal Airport, but the light continued on a straight path. Herrmann stated that he watched through a pair of binoculars as the disc stopped, increased in intensity and moved straight up out of visual range against a clear sky.

Next, the witness claimed to have seen a UFO hovering over the power lines outside his home during daylight conditions (5:30 p.m.) on November 27, of that year. He got in his car and followed what appeared through his 7X binoculars to be the same silvery disc of light he had seen before. The disc followed the power lines, flying at treetop level over the Wand Woods area. When they reached the Charles County Fairgrounds, the UFO executed some triangular-shaped patterns across the sky. Herrmann indicated that he used his Instamatic camera at this point to take four photos of the UFO, before it lifted up into the overcast sky and was gone.

The South Carolina man would add three more sightings of a similar nature to his list:

- **December 2, 1977—9:20 a.m.**
  He was awakened by one of those peculiar "airquake" sonic booms being reported on the East Coast at the time. Looking out a window, he could see the now-familiar disc briefly hovering over the power lines.
- **December 4, 1977—8:30 p.m.**
  This time, his wife called his attention to a UFO marking triangular patterns in the sky before flying off. Herrmann noted that the dogs in the trailer park all howled until 4:00 a.m., "as if in pain."
- **January 22, 1978—10:30 a.m.**
  On his way to church, on Cross County Road near Dorchester Road, Herrmann spotted a light arcing up from the trees like a jet. For 15 minutes, the glowing form reportedly performed amazing antics across the sky, shooting left and right, up and down. When the glow dimmed down, Herrmann said he could resolve a metallic, bell-shaped craft 60 feet in diameter with three protrusions, rotating about on the bottom. A box with crossed partitions could be seen in the middle, as well as an orange glowing "halo" suspended below the object. Again, he used his Instamatic to take several pictures of the UFO while it allegedly chased after a C-141 on approach toward Charleston Air Force Base. It returned toward him, then flew off again surrounded by a red-orange glow.

By this point, Herrmann had already corresponded with a variety of UFO investigators and organizations about his repeated sighting experiences. His most exotic claims were yet to come, however. Herrmann claimed he saw the disc for the sixth time on March 18, 1978, at 8:30 p.m., hovering as before over the power lines of South Carolina Electric & Gas. This time, however, he told of the disc swooping down upon him and paralyzing him with a blue-white beam of light. Then he lost consciousness.

Now Herrmann found himself standing in a field, watching the silver disc flying away in a series of triangular patterns. The passengers of a passing car told him he was in Summerville, South Carolina, 15 miles from his home; furthermore, the time was now 12:05 a.m. Shocked and upset, Herrmann asked for police assistance; he was later driven home by his wife and father.

For many nights afterwards, the beleaguered witness complained of headaches, insomnia and troubling visions of a forgotten experience. Dr. James Harder, an engineering professor from California, flew to Charleston to hypnotically regress Herrmann back to the time of the sighting.

This produced a detailed account of Herrmann's abduction aboard the UFO. He saw himself lying on a bed, watching a bar of sequentially-flashing colored lights, while three, four-foot, Oriental-looking individuals examined him. The abductee described his captors as very pale, bald, with large heads, dark eyes, small noses and buttonless red suede jump suits. The walls and ceiling of the strange room around him gave off a deep red light. One of the UFOnauts seemed to speak in perfect English, telling him "the time is short, come," yet his mouth never moved.

Herrmann was led along a curved corridor to a room filled with machinery, "computers," flashing colored lights and more crew members seated in swivel chairs watching over a "checkerboard of lights." Another room contained two transparent spheres containing wires and colored rods; this was explained to him as part of the propulsion system of the craft. Herrmann's guide told him he would eventually understand the reason for his abduction, but for now he would be forced to forget it. Lying down, he was shown the bar of flashing lights again; the next thing he knew, he was standing in the field.

In February of 1979, Herrmann went to New York where Dr. Spiegel of the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital found him to be psychiatrically stable and in good health. The use of Psychological Stress Evaluation (PSE) has fallen into question in recent times, but for its worth, Herrmann passed this voice-analysis test. Herrmann also asserts that he met with a person who professed to be Thomas M. Olsen, a Maryland-based UFO researcher, who arranged a polygraph test for him. Olsen had subsequently informed us, however, that he never met with the South Carolinian, nor called for such a test.

Herrmann's experiences did not end with that abduction, however. On the night of April 21, 1979, he saw a ball of

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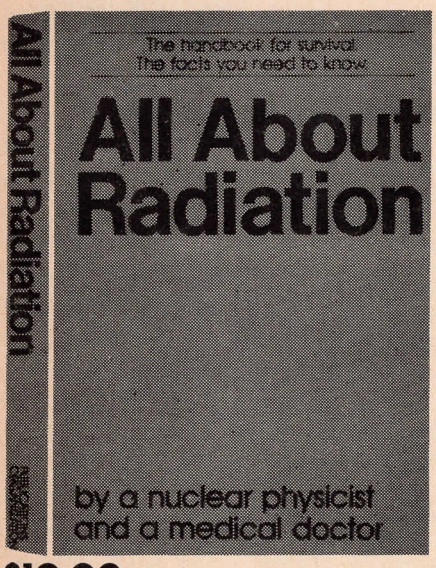
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feet. Slowing slightly, it executed a "hairpin turn," got "three times brighter" and headed north at much faster speed. It seemed to travel 20-25 miles into the northern sky before it executed another hairpin turn, slowed down to its original speed and disappeared directly overhead into the clear sky. "A falling star would have looked slow compared to this object," Crawford said.

If anyone else noticed this light, they didn't try reporting it.

Much Ado About Little?
Type: NL
Date: March 12, 1980
Time: 12:45 a.m.
Duration: 1 hour
Witnesses: at least 10
Place: Gladstone, Michigan

This case is more interesting for the behavior of the news media toward it than for anything else. It began when an unnamed citizen reported seeing a UFO to Sgt. Jim McKnight of the Gladstone Police Department. McKnight radioed officers Dave Mariin and Mark Hager, asking them if they could see anything unusual in the skies over Gladstone, one mile north of the heart of the town. What looked like a distant plane was approaching the car from the south; what really impressed the police officers was the intensity and "size" of its white headlight. As the object came alongside of the car (in the western sky), flashing red and green lights could be seen along with its unresolvable form; the car window was open, but no sound could be heard. When the lights made a banking turn and flew into the western sky, the police started the car and gave chase. They drove a quarter-mile until the lights flew out of sight over the tree line. All of this activity took place in 30 to 60 seconds.

The Delta County Sheriff's Department was notified; Deputies David Huckstep and Max Streichert drove to a position 17 miles northwest of the other officers and watched a bright light positioned 15 degrees up in the western sky. Back in Gladstone, the police also watched this light, assumed to be the original "UFO" some 20-30 miles distant now. Huckstep, a former air traffic controller with the Air Force, stated the light was stationary at first, but would move 1-2 inches (if a ruler were held at arm's length) to the right. Then it jumped about "1-2 inches" and displayed a variety of different colors. On radio, the Gladstone officers confirmed seeing these same motions from their vantage point. The point of light would also appear to climb and descend before disappearing from sight in the northwest around 1:50 a.m.

By this time, the Gladstone dispatcher was on the phone with Allan Hendry of the Center for UFO Studies while the sightings continued. At the same time, phone calls were coming in from local citizens who overheard the police communications on scanner radios and wanted to confirm seeing the "same thing." (Though examination of the details forces one to doubt this.)

Could the sighting have been a combination of a plane and a bright western star, "moving" about through autokinesis or atmospheric turbulence? The following agencies denied awareness of aircraft being in the area: Sawyer Air Force Base, Traverse City Coast Guard, the Air Route Traffic Control Center in Minneapolis, Grand Rapids FAA, Duluth 23rd ADC, the Air Force radar station at Empire, the Department of Natural Resources, and Escanaba's Enstrum Helicopters. Still, it's always possible that ***someone*** was flying a small aircraft at that time. Furthermore, the fact that the police and deputies were separated by 17 miles, yet both claimed to see the distant light "due west," supports the notion that the second phase of the sighting was of a star; Capella could fill the bill here depending on the height of the tree line on the horizon.

While this obviously isn't the Case of the Century, the press treated it as if it were. Within 12 hours of the event, the witnesses were beset with inquiries from Australia (!), all three television networks in Los Angeles and calls from Chicago and New York. When a case like ***this*** becomes a national celebrity, public understanding of the UFO phenomenon undoubtedly suffers.

Low-Flying Georgian Globe
Type: CE1
Date: March 24, 1980
Time: 7:30-8:00 p.m.
Duration: 10 minutes
Witnesses: 6+
Place: James, Georgia

James Balkcom, a 63-year-old grocery store owner, was driving across the railroad tracks on Highway 18,

when his mixed collie started barking furiously. Looking toward the northeast, Balkcom saw a blindingly-bright light low over the tracks. His first thought was that he failed to observe an approaching train, and he hit the brakes. Instead it became clear that a large "ball" of light was flying along the tracks over the treetops. White beams of light emanated from the ball and colored lights "like a disco" were seen within the white illumination. The strange sphere came to a stop and hovered over the home of Mr. and Mrs. Benton Evans for five to ten minutes.

Meanwhile, the Evans, watching TV indoors, were attracted outside by the light. Benton Evans, a retired lawyer, indicated that the illuminated sphere was hovering over the railroad tracks 55 feet in front of his home. Since Balkcom was several hundred feet away from their house, and he saw the light to be at a low angle above the ground, simple triangulation reveals that the sphere's altitude was, indeed, unusually low. Benton Evans saw the colored lights as blinking while James Balkcom saw them as steady. Mrs. Evans said she could see a glass enclosure on the form. Balkcom joined a third family located east of the UFO, and watched with them as the ball began moving slowly along the tracks to the southwest. Silent until now, the Evans said they could hear a pulsing "shh-shh" noise as the UFO departed; the other family called it a "roar," but no one thought it sounded like a helicopter or plane. Another resident of James, Mrs. Jo Garner, told the press that the "giant lighted globe" passed over her house around the same time. A controller at the Lewis B. Wilson Airport said they were unaware of the incident, which received considerable television and newspaper coverage in the Macon area.

FOREIGN FORUM

Note: The editors cannot exert the same "first-hand" control over foreign cases as domestic ones. It is certainly of value, at least, to compare the reported characteristics of the phenomenon abroad as in the United States.

Brazil: New Light on a Sexual Abduction

One of the most colorful stories in the annals of UFOlogy concerns Antonio Villas-Boas and his Very Close Encounter of the Third Kind in Minas Gerais, Brazil, back in October of 1957. Villas-Boas was a 23-year-old farmer at the time, running a tractor at 1:00 a.m., when an egg-shaped craft landed near him. The Brazilian tried to escape but his tractor motor conked out and he was overpowered by the humanoid crew of the UFO. These UFOnauts took Villas-Boas aboard, stripped off all of his clothing and sponged a liquid over his body. A blood sample was taken from his chin and smoke was pumped into the room which caused him to vomit.

Then a white-haired woman with the "most beautiful body" that the farmer had ever seen entered the room and proceeded to seduce him. When these truly "star-crossed lovers" were through, the woman pointed first to her abdomen, then toward the farmer, and finally toward the sky. She left the room and a man entered, returning Villas-Boas's clothes. The Brazilian was given a tour of the odd-shaped craft until he tried, unsuccessfully, to grab one of the instruments on board. The ship then left the area, shooting off toward the south like a bullet. The whole experience lasted four and one-half hours. When he was medically examined by Dr. Olavo Fontes, Villas-Boas spoke of symptoms that implied exposure to radiation, and Fontes noted what could have been the last vestiges of such symptoms.

Recently, a tape recording was made available to the Center for UFO Studies by Irene Granchi of a Brazilian television show from 1978, (in Portuguese with translations), which featured Antonio Villas-Boas in his first public appearance on this matter in 21 years. It turns out that he is now ***Dr.*** Villas-Boas, a respected lawyer in a town not far from Brasilia. Furthermore, he is happily married and the father of four children. He decided to break his long period of silence as he was offended by the way his experience—and the UFO subject in general—was being treated in the press. (Apparently, Villas-Boas' experience was depicted graphically in a French comic strip!) His recent retelling of the event contained no contradictions, but he did add a detail withheld from his original account. The woman used a container to collect a sperm sample from him at the end of their second union, which Villas-Boas presumed was retained.

After the show, Irene Granchi asked Antonio's wife, Marlene, how she felt about the possibility that her husband had more offspring than their own terrestrial four. She said she didn't mind the idea at all; in fact, she would be rather proud of it! One thing is certain: If Antonio Villas-Boas ***had*** been the victim of serious radiation exposure in 1957, it doesn't seem to have affected the last 23 years of his life.

Mexico: Now You've Heard Everything

If a story in the newspaper ***Carteles del Sur*** (December 11, 1979), can be believed, sexual CE3 experiences have taken a turn for the worse south of the border. Manual Fidel Cruz Lopez, 39, was reportedly examined by a Dr. Reynaldo Fernandez Santiago after he castrated himself with his machete at the order of eight armed UFOnauts. At 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 30, 1979, the Mexican peasant was weeding a palm grove owned by his father near La Palma on the coast of Oaxaca, when he encounted the men. They descended from a hovering saucer surrounded by green lights that was 50 meters in breadth and two stories high. The occupants looked like tall black Africans sporting elegant dress, green "lenses," radio transmitters—and submachine guns (!). They spoke in the local Mixtecan dialect, Spanish and other languages.

Following his forced self-castration, he wandered through the night in a state of shock with his detached member in his hand, until he received medical attention the next day. Cruz said that he had a sixth-grade education and does not use drugs or alcohol. He insisted that it was not a hallucination.

Four hours after the event, two schoolteachers a few miles away independently reported seeing a round, intensely green UFO with four tails of fire pass from north to south and back again within a matter of seconds.

As for the mutilated peasant, who has a 23-year-old wife and three children: "I am not ashamed of being castrated. That was fate and it could happen to anyone."

UFO NEWSFRONT

UFO Impact: The Arts

The last two years have seen the

blue light appear over his bedroom dresser. When it faded, he crossed the room and picked up a small rectangular bar of metal with symbols engraved on it. The bar underwent metallographic analysis at M.I.T. and by one Dr. Walter Walker. Both came to the conclusion: The bar was a casting of hard lead containing six percent antimony. This composition is commonly used in lead water pipes and automobile batteries, and it has not been overlooked that Herrmann works in an automotive repair shop.

Herrmann claimed he was abducted a second time on May 16, 1979, at which time the UFOnauts took credit for gifting him with the bar as a token of their "respect and appreciation"—without explaining the nature of the item. The UFOnauts even took credit for causing the near-crash of that Boeing 727 flying near Detroit in April of 1979.

Since that time, Bill Herrmann has made public appearances describing his experiences as far from home as Ohio.

Ronnie Patrick—Tyler, Texas

Like William Herrmann, this abductee claims "preliminary" sights long before his climactic experience last year. Unlike Herrmann, a close friend of Patrick's underwent an abduction by the same UFOnauts who took him. Also, he continues to claim a wide variety of peculiar aftereffects related to his abductions.

Back in May of 1977, when he was 18 years old, Patrick heard a growling noise outside his house about 1:15 a.m. Stepping outside to investigate, he saw two tall black figures on his porch. They had no facial features, hands or feet, and were floating eight to ten inches above the ground. The police were called, but they found nothing. He later found a "baby's" footprint with claw marks mashed into the earth near a fence, which he was urged to cover up with a shovel.

The young witness stated he was "scared and shocked" by this experience. On a subsequent night, he and his girlfriend allegedly saw a round, silver metallic disc. It moved from left to right and stopped in front of them, then closed to within 50 yards distance. Frightened, they looked up at its underside and saw four blue-white lights with an etching of the creature seen previously on the UFO's underside. The UFO reportedly went into a lake without a sound.

Two years later, Patrick was a 20-year-old general contractor staying with his grandmother in Quitman, North of Tyler, while working on a construction project there. On January 17 at 4:15 a.m., he was awakened by a "beautiful" beam of light with "sparkles" which entered his room through the window and adjacent wall. When he reached out to touch the beam, it penetrated his hands and arms and felt like "static electricity."

The next thing he remembered was sitting in a chair at 7:00 a.m., fully dressed and ready for work. Patrick became aware of a number of unusual physiological aftereffects from this experience, including a 25-pound weight loss, hair loss, burning eyes, dry nose and mouth, diarrhea and abnormal perspiration. Also, there were bruises and wounds on his legs, and he feared the loss of his teeth when his gums drew back and bled intensively. These symptoms were observed by his parents as well as his Christian Science instructor. The most unusual aftereffects he claimed were psychic in nature. Allegedly, he felt infrequent surges of psychokinetic abilities two or three times a week; he bent a ring on a toy rack at will, "melted" a spoon in his hand and nearly broke his sister's arm at a touch. He claimed he could name star constellations he never knew before and had surges of insight about "spacecraft technology."

He had a lot of nightmares, which he discussed with his friend, Scott (last name confidential), also 20 years old. Scott informed him that he, too, was experiencing a recurring nightmare of a UFO encounter. In his dream, a light 100 yards down a road would hit him—then he would wake up. Scott would report that his dream came true on the night of January 24, 1979.

At 10:15 p.m., Scott was driving about four miles from Lindale, Texas, when he stopped the car to relieve himself. He left the car running with the lights on and a Peter Frampton tape cassette playing in the car. As in his dream, a green and yellow light with sparks in the sky hit him. Wind whirled around the car and his hair stood on end as if by static electricity. Then two complex ships (as sketched by the witness) appeared, with a violet-red light moving between them.

Meanwhile, following the distant sighting of a UFO, Ron Patrick went looking for Scott. A telepathic voice told Patrick that his friend had been abducted, that he should await him at Scott's house. At 5:30 a.m., when Scott appeared, he stepped out of the car and looked seven feet tall! In addition, he looked white, toothless and boneless. Scott pleaded with Ronnie Patrick to help him, even to touch him, but Patrick was too scared. Then the bizarre form of his friend seemed to drop flat to the ground.

At that point, Ronnie Patrick stated that a voice informed him his friend would be alright. Immediately, his friend regained his human form, except for a diamond-shaped burn mark on his chest that still seemed hot. When Ronnie Patrick touched it with his nose to smell it, his nose hurt and he reported feeling ill. Scott's legs appeared to have the same wounds suffered by Ronnie following his own "time lapse" experience. His hair seemed somewhat burned as well. In the car, the clock was reportedly five and one-half hours off. The prerecorded tape had a two-minute blank portion on both sides.

There were still more experiences to come. On January 28, at 12:30 p.m. Patrick reported seeing the same UFOs as his friend had sketched four days before. A robotic voice assured him that their intentions were good and they would return. Two days after that, Patrick would assert that he somehow drove 30 miles in six minutes as judged by a new (and accurate) wristwatch. Somehow his left arm was cut through his shirt sleeve; the wound then closed back up as if glued together. When water touched his arm, he felt as if he were being "electrocuted."

Because the two young men feared they were suffering from "radiation burns," the Center for UFO Studies sponsored a trip by Dr. Richard Niemtzow, a UFO researcher and radiation specialist, to examine them. The diamond-shaped discoloration peeled heavily at first, but did not fade away. Unfortunately, because of the Christian Science background of the men, they would not permit any doctor to take skin samples for pathology tests.